Amendments to the Claims

This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A programmable logic controller comprising:

   a backplane having an internal communications bus for connecting one or more modules of the programmable logic controller with each other;

   one or more modules connected to said backplane [[;]] ˌ said modules ~~capable of~~ adapted for communicating over said backplane using the IP protocol;

   wherein each module has its own IP address assigned using a local addressing schema.

2. (Currently Amended) The programmable logic controller of claim 1 wherein the ~~IP address uses a~~ local addressing schema uses a Private IP address.

3. (Original) The programmable logic controller of claim 2 wherein the local addressing schema is in a form of 192.168.XX.YY.

4. (Currently Amended) The programmable logic controller of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein a term ~~XX~~ in the local addressing schema represents the number of the programmable logic controller.

5. (Currently Amended) The programmable logic controller of claim ~~3~~ 1 wherein a term ~~YY~~ in the local addressing schema represents a number describing a position in said backplane.

6. (Original) The programmable logic controller of claim 1 wherein the IP protocol is used in conjunction with a TCP protocol.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of communication between a first module and a second module on a programmable logic controller backplane comprising:

connecting said first ~~modules~~ module to said programmable logic controller backplane wherein the first module is connected to a network of ~~IO~~ I/O modules;

connecting said second module to said programmable logic controller backplane wherein the second module is connected to an Ethernet network;

communicating <u>over an internal communications bus on said backplane</u> between said first module and said second module using the IP protocol,

where the first module and the second module have their own IP address for backplane communications<u>, said IP addresses assigned using a local addressing schema</u>.

8. (Original) The method of communication of claim 7 wherein the Ethernet network is connected to an Internet.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of communication of claim 7 wherein ~~an~~ <u>the</u> addressing schema for the IP address uses a ~~local addressing schema~~ <u>term representing the position of the module on the backplane.</u>

10. (Currently Amended) The method of communication of claim 7 wherein the network of ~~IO~~ I/O modules is an Ethernet network.

11. (Original) The method of communications of claim 7 wherein the IP protocol is used in conjunction with a TCP protocol.

12. (Currently Amended) An industrial automation system comprising:

at least one programmable logic controller <u>having a backplane, said backplane</u> <u>having an internal communications bus </u>that is ~~capable of~~ <u>adapted for</u> communicating messages <u>over said </u> ~~to a~~ backplane, wherein the messages are formatted using an IP protocol;

a first network module connected to said backplane that is also connected to an ~~IO~~ <u>I/O</u> network; and

a second network module connected to said backplane that is also connected to an Ethernet network<u>,</u>

wherein ~~the programmable logic controller,~~ the first network module [[,]] and the second network module each have their own IP address for backplane communications <u>, said IP addresses assigned using a local addressing schema</u>.

13. (Currently Amended) The industrial automation system of claim 12 wherein said Ethernet network is connected to ~~an~~ <u>the </u> Internet.

Please cancel claim 14.

15. (Currently Amended) The industrial automation system of claim ~~12~~ <u>13</u> wherein the ~~IO~~ <u>I/O</u> network is an Ethernet network.

16. (Original) The industrial automation system of claim 12 wherein the IP protocol is used in conjunction with a TCP protocol.

17. (New) The industrial automation system of claim 15 wherein the system is adapted to monitor the operation of a device on the I/O network connected to said first network module, by a user at a remote location on the Internet connected to said second network module, via messages formatted using the IP protocol and communicated between said first and second network modules over said backplane.